

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 3-5, of the specification with:

Benefit of provisional applications 60/036,987, filed January 30, 1997, and 60/038,911, filed February 26, 1997, and U.S. Serial No. 09/415,733, filed October 12, 1999, is hereby claimed.

Please replace the text at page 48 with the following passage:

A correlation between increased β -myosin heavy chain and decreased α -myosin heavy chain (MHC) expression and cardiac hypertrophy has been established. The expression levels of these molecules can therefore be used to diagnosis hypertrophic conditions. In addition, by modulating the levels of α - and β -MHC towards their norm, one can provide a therapeutic intervention in cardiac hypertrophy and its progression to cardiac dysfunction.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 17-22 and amend the remaining claim, claim 23, as follows:

β^2 subcl) (Amended)
23. ^ A method of treating myocardial failure in a human comprising administering an effective amount of a transgene encoding for α -MHC.